

# **INCLUSION IN WORSHIP**

*A Ministry to Welcome Worshippers of All Abilities as Active Participants*

## **TEN EASY WAYS TO WELCOME PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE AREA OF COMMUNICATION**

- 1. State the desire to be intentionally inclusive in the faith community's mission statement.**
- 2. Use "people first" language in homilies, sermons, and bulletin articles.**
- 3. Use access symbols in newspaper advertisements, event announcements and signage to publicize accessible features already in place.**
- 4. Include the words "*All are welcome. Please call (insert phone number) so that we can provide accommodations for your participation*" in all event announcements.**
- 5. Personally invite congregants with disabilities to participate in ministries, clubs, religious education programs, and events and arrange any accommodations to make participation possible.**
- 6. Make large print prayer books, missals, Bibles, bulletins and hymnals (such as this 14 point bold type) available.**
- 7. Provide homilies on audiotape or in large-print and promote their availability in the bulletin.**
- 8. Keep individuals with visual impairments informed by announcing information from the bulletin at the end of the worship service.**
- 9. When new members join your congregation, ask, in a sensitive and dignified way, if any accommodations would enhance their participation in the faith community. Then provide the accommodations.**
- 10. Invite congregants who cannot regularly attend services to participate through a "ministry of praise". Send the congregation's intentions to be prayed for to the "ministers of praise" on a regular basis. Express the congregation's gratitude for their prayer support.**